of the Bill for the consideration of the President and submit the same to the President as early as possible, at any rate within a period of two months from 24.3.1997.

(c) The Union Government has taken expeditious action to complete all preliminary steps in this regard.

Free Trade Zone

5485. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare free trade zone in Kodarma, Hazaribagh and Giridih districts of Bihar to boost export from these districts;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of these districts for developing trade zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The terms "Free Trade Zones" (FTZs) and "Export Processing Zones" (EPZs) in the Indian context are synonymous. There is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up any new Zones. However, EPZs can now be established by the State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

[Translation]

Vacant SC/ST Posts

5486. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes filled during the last one year and those still lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments, post-wise; and

(b) the phased programme prepared by the Government to fill up the posts still lying vacant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) A statement containing the requisite information is attached.

(b) Necessary action to fill up all the reserved vacancies has already been initiated. As regards filling up the reserved vacancies in the grade of Member, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, a Selection Board has already been constituted and interviews are likely to be held shortly for filling up these vacancies. In other cases, proposals have been sent to the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission. The vacancies will be filled up immediately on receipt of the recommendations/nominations from them.

Statement

Designation		No. of reserved posts filled during 1996		No. of reserved posts lying vacant	
		SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
Group 'A'					
1.	Members, ITAT				
	(Judicial)	—	—	2	1
	(Accountant)	2	—	1	1
2.	Deputy Legal Advisor	—	—	1	—
3.	Dy. Legislative Counsel	1	—	1	—
4.	Asstt. Legal Advisor	—	—	1	—
5.	Asstt. Legislative Counsel	—	—	1	2
6.	Astt. Editor	1	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
Group 'B'					
7.	Private Secretary	—	—	2	—
8.	Supdt. (Legal)	—	—	1	—
9.	Sub-Editor	—	—	1	—
10.	Assistant (Non-G)	—	—	2	2
11.	Assistant (Legal)	—	1	—	1
12.	Sub-Editor	—	—	1	—
Group 'C'					
13.	Assistant (Adm)	1	—	1	—
14.	Litigation Asstt.	—	1	—	1
15.	Steno (Hindi)	—	—	2	1
16.	Steno (HCE)	—	—	1	—
17.	Steno (Reg. Lang)	—	—	1	2
18.	Steno Gr. D	—	—	8	4
19.	UDC	—	—	1	—
20.	LDC	2	—	2	—
21.	Staff Car Driver Gr. II	1	—	—	—
22.	Staff Car Driver Gr. I	1	—	—	—
23.	Peon	1	—	—	—

[English]

Export of Garments

5487. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian garments has been increasing in several countries;

(b) if so, the achievement made in export of garments during 1996-97 and the target fixed for 1997-98; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of garments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The demend for Indian graments has been increasing in a number of countries.

(b) Garment exports amounted to US $ 4762.10 million during 1996-97. A target of US $ 5200 million has been fixed for the exports of garments during 1997-98.

(c) In order to boost the exports of garments, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Khadi Units

5488. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Observer' dated April 25, 1997 captioned "Central Government's policy renders khadi units unviable."

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of memorandum received by the Government in this regard from Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other organizations: and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?